

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LEARNING FOR STUDENTS**

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### **Abstract**

Teaching and learning can become inherently spontaneous and student-centered when moved from the confines of the classroom into the world at large. From the collaborative learning atmosphere that results from the unique relationships developed outside the classroom, to the deep learning that occurs when students must put into practice “in the real world” what they have theorized about from behind a desk, field experiences are unmatched in their learning potential. Field experiences early in a student’s career can be formative and can inspire students to continue in a field. The outside the classroom learning experience, commonly known as “field trip”, is a type of experiential learning which get students away from the formal classroom into a new environment. It can as simple as taking the class out on to the campus for a drawing exercise. Outside classroom activities can include summer field camps, extended stays at research stations and even a semester abroad.. the potential benefits for teaching and learning outside the classroom activities can be enormous . putting a class into a different physical setting generates a bond among class members and creates a learning community. Sometimes simply getting to the field trip destination is an opportunity for students to get to know each other, as well as their instructor. Active field trips can also offer unprecedented opportunities for experiential learning.

### **Introduction**

Learning inside a classroom is a tried and tested method of organising schooling. However, teachers and learners have always valued the additional opportunities for learning provided by a

range of activities conducted outside the classroom. These include day and residential visits, field studies, investigations conducted in the local area, sporting events, and music and drama productions. In organising such activities, schools and colleges have often drawn on

the services of a range of providers, including commercially run outdoor education and sport centres, as well as the education departments of museums, art galleries, theatres and concert halls. Recently, the Government has placed increased emphasis on such activities with the publication of the Learning outside the classroom manifesto and the training and guidance associated with it.

Sometimes the classroom environment can become a little stale and boring. Here are some ideas for activities can do outside the classroom. The teacher and students can be interesting and educational.

Teaching and Learning inside a classroom is a tried and tested method of organizing schooling. However, teachers and learners have always valued the further Opportunities for learning that can take place outside the classroom, includes activities within a school's or college's own buildings, grounds or immediate area; participation in dramatic productions, concerts and other special events; involvement in clubs, musical groups and sporting activities held during; break-times and before or after the end of the school

day; educational visits organized within the school day; residential visits that take place during the school week, a weekend or holiday. The education departments of museums, art galleries, theatres and concert halls.

The management of learning outside the classroom was not consistently good and the schools and colleges surveyed did not always exploit its potential or evaluate its impact sufficiently. However, they had all been successful in overcoming several common barriers to learning outside the classroom, including concerns about the health and safety of participants. The approaches they adopted provide useful models that other schools and colleges could consider.

Learning outside the classroom can be teacher-centered and expository, or it can be more enquiry-based and student-centered. This choice depends on the nature and objectives of the lesson. A great range of objectives can be achieved through teaching and learning outside the classroom, including:

- The formation of attitudes and the development of an aesthetic awareness

- The development of understanding and knowledge
- The development of skills.

Although the teacher holds the ultimate responsibility for what happens in any lesson, the experience of learning outside the classroom can help students develop a greater sense of their own responsibilities towards each other and the tasks on which they are working.

When teacher plans teaching and learning outside the classroom it is necessary to match the activities selected with the objectives and purposes of the fieldwork. The selection of objectives will depend to some extent upon the timing of the fieldwork within the sequence of learning activities:

- Early in the teaching and learning sequence, teaching and learning outside the classroom may be used for basic information gathering and increasing the motivation of students.
- Towards the end of a unit of work, teaching and learning outside the classroom may be used to draw a number of themes together.
- Integrated throughout a unit of work, teaching and learning outside the

classroom can develop student understanding of concepts, generalisations and principles.

Teaching and learning can become inherently spontaneous and student-centered when moved from the confines of the classroom into the world at large. From the collaborative learning atmosphere that results from the unique relationships developed outside the classroom, to the deep learning that occurs when students must put into practice “in the real world” what they have theorized about from behind a desk, field experiences are unmatched in their learning potential. Field experiences early in a student’s career can be formative and can inspire students to continue in a field. There are many ways to make learning extend outside the classroom:

- Field Trips
- Service Learning and Community Engagement
- Study Abroad
- Technology Outside the Classroom
- Peripatetic Pedagogy
- Place-Based Learning
- Assessment of Field Experiences

- Resources for research on Experiential Learning

[english.com/fun-english-activities-outside-the-classroom.html](http://english.com/fun-english-activities-outside-the-classroom.html)).

## Fun English Activities Outside the Classroom

It is great to take the students to different public buildings for their lessons. One lesson some of students love to take them to a public library. The teacher gives questionnaires to complete in pairs and they walked around trying to find the information. This activity also works well in museums, historic buildings, tourist attractions, or even around the city or town you work in.

Another great way to incorporate other locations into teaching's way is with shops and shopping. Ask the students to write a recipe from their parents. The students can go to the shops and try and find the cheapest place where the ingredients are sold. The teacher can also give students an imaginary budget. Ask them go to 'window shopping' {which is when the students look but don't buy anything) to decide how to spend the students' money. Again, with these tasks, it is important to make sure the students are supervised

[www.really-learn-english.com/2012/05/10-fun-english-activities-outside-classroom.html](http://www.really-learn-english.com/2012/05/10-fun-english-activities-outside-classroom.html)

## Reasons to Take Teaching and Learning Outside the Classroom

The teacher take teaching and learning outside the classroom for the students have many reasons. The weather is at its warmest is a better opportunity than ever to explore learning outside the classroom. Learning beyond the classroom offers a whole host of opportunities you'll struggle to find within confines of your classroom's four walls, I've outlined just a few below

(<http://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/blog/learning-outside-the-classroom/>):

### 1. Make learning more engaging

It can be difficult to keep kids on task in the classroom. Especially as the school year draws to an end and the weather is nice outside and all they want to do is run around like mad things. Why not take learning outside and let them do just that? Take maths outside and have children estimate then time how long it would take to run, hop and skip across a field. They can discuss it outdoors and graph it back in the classroom.

**2. Make learning relevant**

By taking learning beyond the classroom you'll find dozens of opportunities to make learning concepts, real and relevant by putting them into a more realistic context. Many concepts which seem too difficult to get a grasp of in the classroom are a lot easier to understand in the big wide world when they're set in context, and when the children are more engaged and motivated to understand and learn.

**3. Nurture creativity and imagination**

Taking kids beyond the classroom is like unclipping their wings. Suddenly their minds are free to explore and you can often end up with some very creative results no matter what subject you're teaching them. For example, instead of learning about castles in the classroom are you able to take your children to a real castle ruins and have them act in role? You'll be amazed at how their imaginations run wild – but make sure you know your stuff as they'll have no end of questions to ask you to help fuel their role play.

**4. Develop learning through play and experimentation**

We all know that children learn more when they're happy and engaged. It's amazing just how much they can learn through playing. You can bet that the kids who did the role play in the castle will remember heaps about what life was like for their characters. Experimenting is also a fantastic way to learn – very young children learn a huge amount about volume and textures by simple things like sand and water play, whilst older children will enjoy becoming nature detectives and learning about minibeasts and their habitats.

**5. Improve attendance**

If you're able to build outside play – and visits, into your curriculum and engage and motivate your pupils to learn, you'll inevitably find that they're more motivated to turn up to school.

**6. Reduce behaviour problems**

Whilst learning beyond the classroom certainly means implementing a whole new set of behaviour management processes, on the whole it can often mean a general improvement in behaviour – yet another consequence of children being happy, engaged and motivated. There are

not many children who are likely to act up if the consequence is that the whole class has to go back to learning maths inside...

### **7. Develop interest in the environment and wider surroundings**

Learning outside can give you a great opportunity to teach your pupils about the environment and about your local area. This is an important part of developing them as responsible citizens that can be difficult to convey in the classroom.

### **8. Expose children to new opportunities**

Learning outside the classroom doesn't just have to mean wandering around the school grounds, though this is a great place to start. There is no end of places you can take the pupils that they might not get access to otherwise. Museums, galleries, zoos and farms can be of great interest or somewhere where they can find out how things are made and maybe even have a go themselves can provide learning experiences that won't be forgotten fast.

### **9. Keep healthy**

Even if you're just going to work a few feet from the confines of your classroom, well directed outdoor learning

opportunities can offer a great opportunity for fresh air and exercise. Even pupils who aren't much interested in PE can usually be tempted by a fun learning game without the pressure of needing to 'win'.

### **10. Enjoy almost limitless resources**

One of the key benefits of learning outside is that you have the most amazingly well resourced stock cupboard you could hope for – and a lot of it is free. No matter how tight your school's budget, so long as you have a good imagination you'll be able to develop free, meaningful learning opportunities for your children that will stick with them.

### **Benefits for Early Years of Learning Outside the Classroom.**

It is essential that young children get frequent and regular opportunities to explore and learn in the outdoor environment and this should not be seen as an optional extra. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum, which covers children aged birth to the end of the Reception year, became statutory in September 2008 and places strong emphasis on the importance and value of

daily outdoor experiences for children's learning and development.

In recent years there has been a cultural shift in our society that has reduced the access and use of outdoors for many young children. Contributory factors include increased fear amongst adults in relation to children's safety and technological advances leading to an overwhelming prominence of more sedentary indoor activities, such as television, video and computer games. Here are some powerful arguments for taking every opportunity to take young children beyond their immediate indoor environment:

- Learning outside the classroom supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles by offering children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement, and promoting a sense of well-being.
- Learning outside the classroom gives children contact with the natural world and offers them experiences that are unique to outdoors, such as direct contact with the weather and the seasons.
- Playing and learning outside also helps children to understand and respect nature,

the environment and the interdependence of humans, animals, plants, and lifecycles.

- Outdoor play also supports children's problem-solving skills and nurtures their creativity, as well as providing rich opportunities for their developing imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.
- Children need an outdoor environment that can provide them with space, both upwards and outwards, and places to explore, experiment, discover, be active and healthy, and to develop their physical capabilities.
- The outdoor environment offers space and therefore is particularly important to those children who learn best through active movement. Very young children learn predominately through their sensory and physical experiences which supports brain development and the creation of neural networks.
- For many children, playing outdoors at their early years setting may be the only opportunity they have to play safely and freely while they learn to assess risk and develop the skills to manage new situations.

- Learning that flows seamlessly between indoors and outdoors makes the most efficient use of resources and builds on interests and enthusiasms.
- Anyone who takes children outside regularly sees the enjoyment, and sense of wonder and excitement that is generated when children actively engage with their environment.

#### Conclusion

Learning inside a classroom is a tried and tested method of organising schooling. However, teachers and learners have always valued the further opportunities for learning that can take place outside the classroom, including activities within a school's or college's own buildings, grounds or immediate area; participation in dramatic productions, concerts and other special events; involvement in clubs, musical groups and sporting activities held during break-times and before or after the end of the school day; educational visits organised within the school day; and residential visits that take place during the school week, a weekend or holiday.

Some of the schools visited reported that, in the past, they had viewed

learning outside the classroom as an 'extra' or special treat, confined to termly or yearly trips for each class. However, by reviewing their practice and re-assessing the value of learning outside the classroom, they were exploiting its advantages to better effect and it was now an integral part of the curriculum.

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